

**From:** Douglas Aalseth  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

The proposed settlement is a total sell out. I cannot say too strongly how disgusted I was when I read the details. I have been working in the computer industry for over a decade on many platforms and can without any hesitation say that Microsoft has measurably hurt its competitors, the industry, and this nations computer infrastructure. They deserve to be as severely punished for their crimes as the rest of the industry and this country has been punished by their monopoly.

The current settlement proposal does nothing to punish Microsoft, to redress its past actions, or even to do anything to prevent future rapacious behavior. After all Microsoft has a well documented history of signing legal agreements and then ignoring them. It is a total sell out being proposed for purely political reasons by the Bush administration.

The punishment proposed by the trial judge was set aside by higher courts on technical grounds, not due to any intrinsic flaw in the remedy. It is still the best answer. Only by dividing Microsoft into many parts, perhaps many more than that proposed by the trial judge can Microsoft be forced to give up its monopoly. To do anything less would be to betray the trust of the American people and to undermine their belief in our judicial system. We did it a hundred years ago with Standard Oil. It is now time to do it again.

I strongly urge you to reject this settlement and impose a fitting punishment, one even harsher than that proposed by the trial judge.

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